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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not the duty of the Hon. Minister to peruse the report?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have passed on to the next question.

Control of malaria

* 143 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether spraying operation has been carried on in the control of malaria in the State; and

(*b*) if so, in what places and the result thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The entire State has been covered by D.D.T. spraying since 1959–60. The progress of malaria control has been satisfactory and there has been a decline in malaria cases.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : How did the Government come to the conclusion that it is on the decline?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The percentage of malaria cases in 1957–58 was 7.7, in 1958–59 it was 2.4 and in 1959–60 it was 0.77. I think that is sufficient indication that the thing is coming down.

SRI S. NATARAJAN : Has there been an increase in filaria cases during this period?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No. We cannot say so. Probably the hon. Member has in mind what happened in Kumbakonam. It was a rare feature, and it was controlled. We cannot say generally that because we control malaria there is filaria.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Does the Hon. Minister place much reliance on the statistics since most of the patients go to private practitioners and get themselves cured with anti-malarial synthetics? I think the statistics cannot be correct.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Even allowing a latitude for that, I think we have made sufficient progress.

2-C tax (tree tax)

* 144 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have enhanced the 2-C tax (Tree tax) and, if so, the reasons for such enhancement?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir.

The rates of tree tax have been enhanced in view of the prevailing high rates of the usufructs of the trees like tamarind, mango, jack, etc., the original rates fixed years back having no relation to current prices.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Does the Hon. Minister think that the people, who have been looking after the trees, will look after them carefully in future in view of the enhanced taxation? Will they not put them to improper use like cutting the trees down and so on?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The point why the tax was raised is because the tax was fixed long, long ago. Considering the present rise in the level of prices, we have slightly increased the tax.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Who are looking after the trees?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Avenue trees? The people in the Highways Department are looking after them.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that the tenants who live nearby take care of the trees and that they have been making use of the trees paying only a nominal tax to the Government? In view of the enhancement of the tax will they not misuse the trees?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No; if any private person was enjoying the usufructs; it was on account of the tree patta granted to him. When the tree patta is given, he is allowed to enjoy the usufructs. The rate has now been increased. As regards misuse, it all depends upon the character of the people. Misuse is not only in respect of these trees. There is misuse in respect of many things. It is a reflection of the character of the people.

Welfare of Backward Classes

* 145 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras Government were represented in the Conference of State Ministers in charge of Welfare of Backward Classes held in January and February 1960 at New Delhi;

(*b*) if so, the recommendations made by this Government for the Welfare of Backward Classes of this State; and

(*c*) the decisions, if any, on those recommendations?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) This Government did not make any specific recommendation at the conference for the welfare of Backward Classes in this State. There was a general discussion on the agenda placed before the conference by the Government of India.

(*c*) Does not arise.

SRI M. ETHIRAJALU: தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்காகச் செய்யவேண்டிய வேலைகள் ராஜ்யங்களில் துரிதமாக நடக்கவில்லை என்று மத்திய அரசாங்க உள்துறை மந்திரி அவர்கள்